

Message Text

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SUBJ HOST COUNTRY RELATIONS-COMMITTEE REPORT

1. COMITE ON HOST COUNTRY RELATIONS CONCLUDED UNPRECEDENTED SERIES OF MEETINGS ON DRAFT OF COMITE REPORT. IN ADDITION TO FIVE FULL SESSIONS SEPT 5 THROUGH 9, SMALL INFORMAL WORKING GROUP HAD MET BEGINNING OF LAST WEEK FOR GREATER PART OF TWO DAYS TO HAMMER OUT SERIES OF RECOMMENDATIONS. PAPER USED AS BASIS FOR NEGOTIATIONS ON RECOMMENDATIONS WAS USUN COUNTERDRAFT WHICH DREW WHERE POSSIBLE FROM TEXTS OF WORKING PAPERS "FOUR AND FIVE" SUBMITTED BY SOVIETS AND BULGARIANS DURING 34TH MEETING OF COMITE. MISOFFS FIRST MET WITH SOVIETS TO ATTEMPT TO ARRIVE AT SUBSTANTIAL AGREEMENT ON USUN DRAFT AND SUBSEQUENT REDRAFTS.

2. DURING ALL THESE NEGOTIATIONS AND MEETINGS, SOV REP (SMIRNOV) ATTEMPTED TO PLACE USG IN ADVERSARY ROLE WITHIN COMITE WHICH WAS TO HAVE BEEN REFLECTED IN REPORT.

THIS ATTEMPT LARGELY FAILED ALTHOUGH THE SOVS DID SUCCEED IN OBTAINING CERTAIN CONSISTENT WORDING IN REPORT ALONG
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LINES "THE VIEW WAS EXPRESSED..." RATHER THAN WORDING

SHOWING STATEMENTS AS VIEWS OF ONE OR FEW REPS. SINCE SOVS PERSISTENTLY ADOPTED STRONGLY NEGATIVE AND EVEN ANTAGONISTIC LINE AGAINST HOST COUNTRY, AND SINCE BY SHEER VOLUME OF INTERVENTIONS TENDED TO DOMINATE COMITE COMMENTS, THEY PARTIALLY SUCCEEDED IN OBTAINING REPORT WHICH PLACED HOST COUNTRY ON ONE SIDE AND USSR AS UN-IDENTIFIED BUT EXTREME SPOKESMAN FOR OTHER MEMBER STATES ON OTHER SIDE. THEY RECEIVED ASSISTANCE WHEN NEEDED FROM BULGARIAN REP (PETROV) AND SUBSTANTIAL HELP ON SOME ISSUES FROM IRAQI REP (AL QAYSI) THOUGH SMIRNOV'S TENDENTIOUS EXTREMISM EVENTUALLY DROVE IRAQ INTO BEING HELPFUL TO US. WITH EXCEPTION OF UK REPS (STEEL AND LIVITT) OTHERS IN COMITE WERE ESSENTIALLY PASSIVE SPECTATORS.

3. COMITE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED PART 7 OF DRAFT REPORT WERE, FROM US POINT OF VIEW, IMPROVEMENT OVER PREVIOUS YEAR'S REPORT LARGELY BECAUSE US DRAFT AND REDRAFTS WERE USED AS BASIS FOR DISCUSSIONS AND NEGOTIATIONS.

4. WE CAN ONLY CONCLUDE THAT SOVS VIEW HOST COUNTRY COMITE AS USEFUL FORUM FOR KEEPING USG ON DEFENSIVE. AT TIMES THEIR POSITIONS ARE SO EXTREME THAT WE MUST QUESTION WHETHER THEY ARE IN FACT INTERESTED IN OBTAINING WHAT THEY WANT IN SECURITY OF MISSIONS, IN PARKING AND SOME OF OTHER SUBJECTS DISCUSSED OR IN MAINTAINING PLATFORM FOR POLEMICAL EFFORTS TO DRUM UP HOSTILITY AGAINST THE US.

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